

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-6 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to improve clarity. Support for these amendments is provided by the corresponding claims as originally filed. The Abstract have been deleted and replaced with the attached substitute Abstract, which is in compliance with U.S. patent practice.

No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Applicants submit herewith a substitute Sequence Listing and a corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing. The sequence information recorded in the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing is identical to the paper copy of the substitute Sequence Listing. Support for all of the sequences listed in the substitute Sequence Listing is found in the present application. Applicants have also amended the specification, where necessary to ensure consistency between the specification and the Sequence Listing and to ensure that all disclosed sequence contain a sequence identifier. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment to the specification, the submission of the substitute Sequence Listing, and the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing.

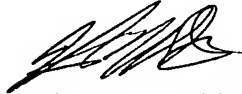
Application Serial No. 10/510,716

Response to the Notice to File Missing Parts mailed March 18, 2005

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

The present invention provides to a mutated alkaline cellulase obtained by deleting, from a cellulase having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence exhibiting at least 90% homology therewith, one or more amino acid residue(s) chosen from the 343rd to 377th positions in SEQ ID NO: 2 or from corresponding positions and inserting a peptide having 2 to 15 amino acid residues into at least one of the deleted positions; and to a gene encoding the mutated alkaline cellulase. Further, the mutated alkaline cellulase of the present invention has an optimum pH near the pH of the washing liquid (pH: about 10.5) and thus is useful as an enzyme for laundry detergent.